Archie ADVENTURE SERIES

SEGA

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

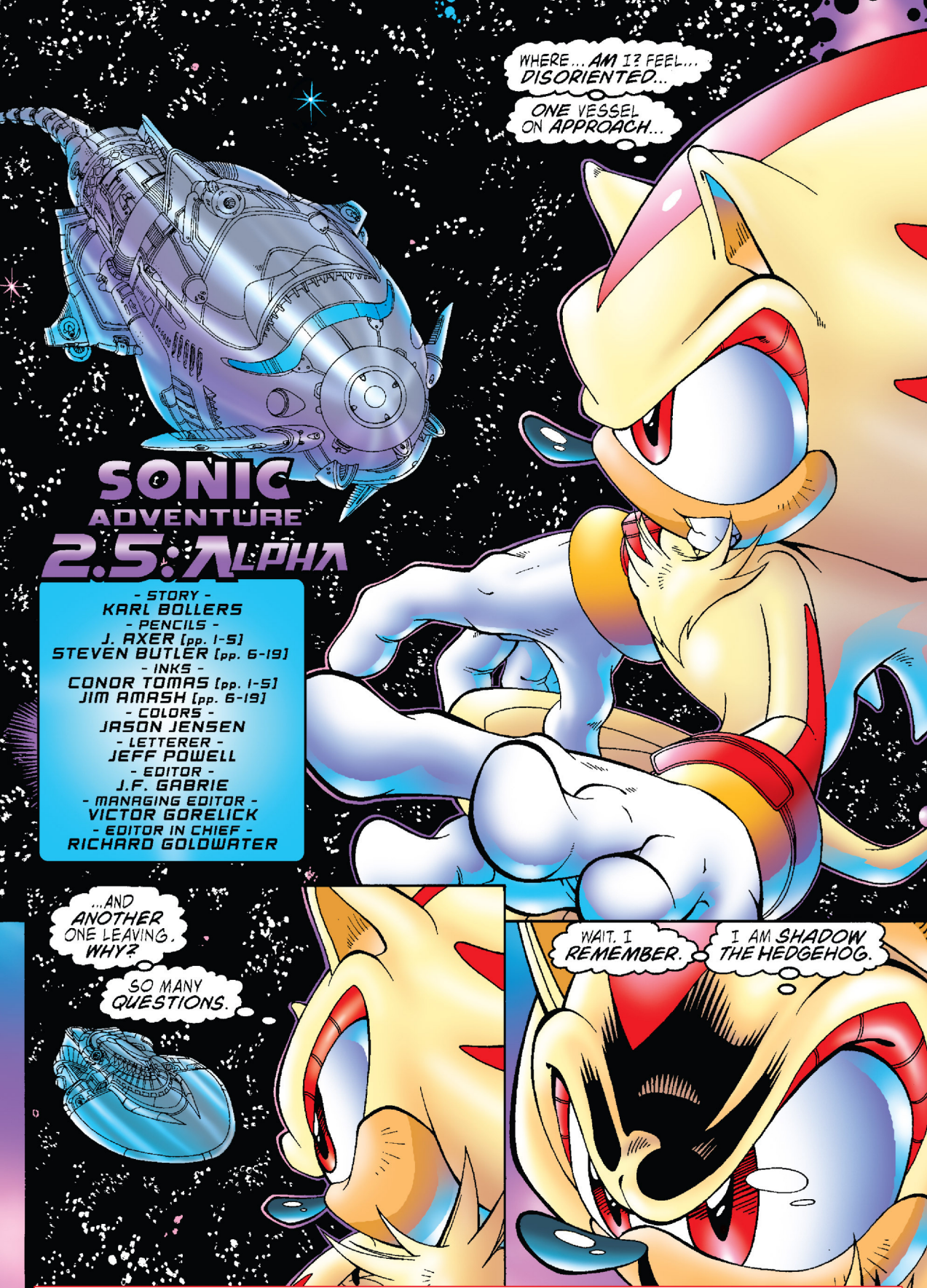
THE STORY THAT WAS TOO BIG FOR A SINGLE ISSUE!!

THE 125TH ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA STARTS HERE–

SONIC ADVENTURE 2.5: ALPHA

PLUS:

IN THIS CURRENT CHAPTER OF THE LATEST ECHIDNA EPIC, KNUCKLES FINDS HIMSELF GETTING USED TO LIVING IN THE "AFTERLIFE"



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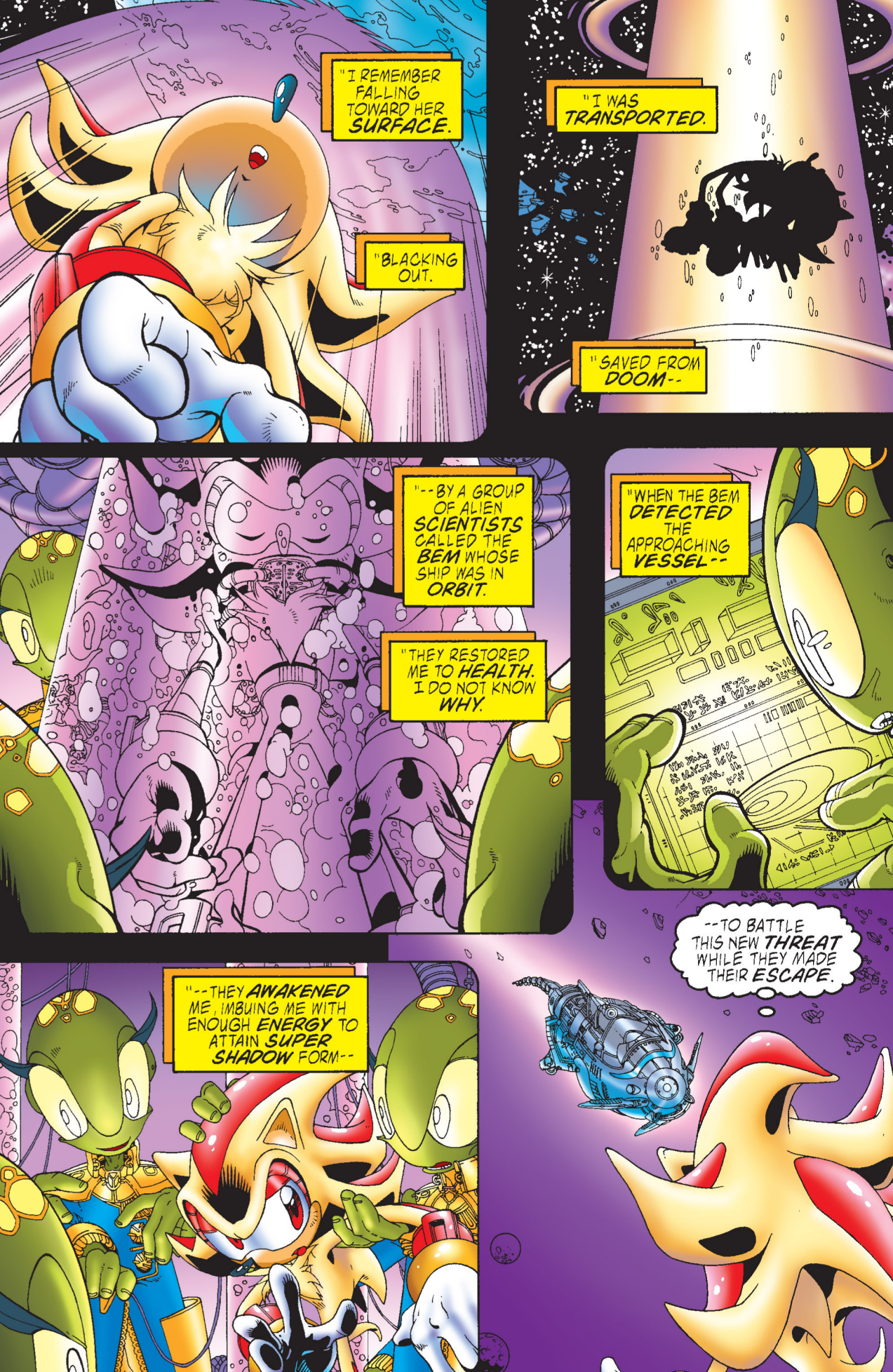
"--THE ULTIMATE LIFE FORM.
"BIO-ENGINEERED NEARLY A CENTURY AGO BY PROFESSOR GERALD AS A WEAPON FOR THE STATION SQUARE GOVERNMENT.
"THE ONLY FRIEND I MADE DURING MY BRIEF TIME ABOARD HIS SOPHISTICATED SPACE LAB, THE ARK--
"--WAS HIS GRANDDAUGHTER MARIA. SHE WAS KIND, BUT THEN--
UGGH!
ZORCH
"TRAGEDY.
"I WAS LOCKED AWAY IN STASIS--
"--UNTIL GERALD'S DESCENDANT, THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK, FREED ME AND I BECAME HIS ALLY.
"I WANTED THE WORLD TO PAY FOR MARIA--
"--BUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG MADE ME SEE THE LIGHT--
"--AND I MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO SAVE PLANET MOBIUS."

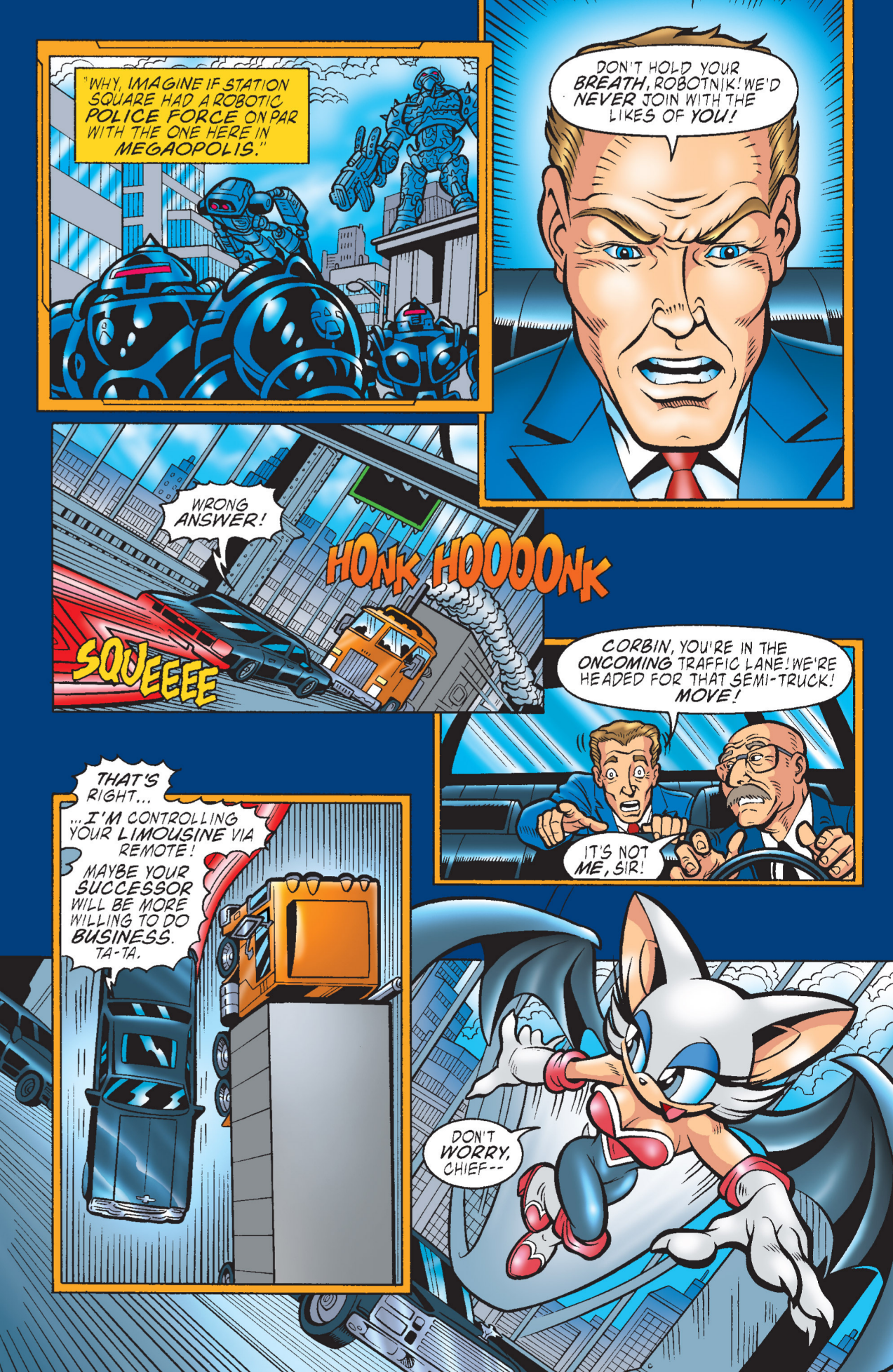

"I REMEMBER FALLING TOWARD HER SURFACE.
"BLACKING OUT.
"I WAS TRANSPORTED.
"SAVED FROM DOOM--
"--BY A GROUP OF ALIEN SCIENTISTS CALLED THE BEM WHOSE SHIP WAS IN ORBIT.
"THEY RESTORED ME TO HEALTH. I DO NOT KNOW WHY.
"WHEN THE BEM DETECTED THE APPROACHING VESSEL--
--TO BATTLE THIS NEW THREAT WHILE THEY MADE THEIR ESCAPE.
"--THEY AWAKENED ME, IMBUING ME WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO ATTAIN SUPER SHADOW FORM--

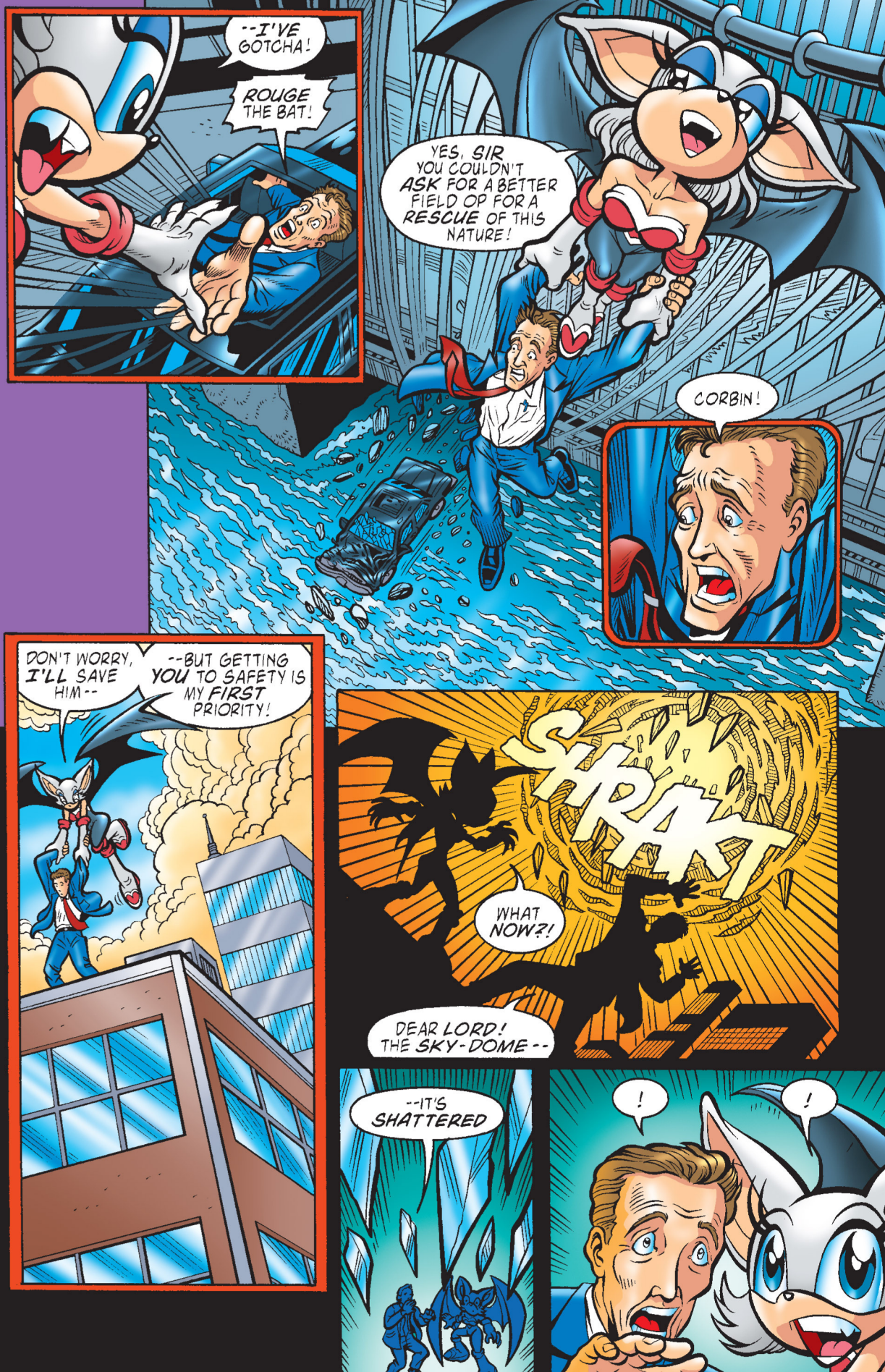
BUT IS IT ENOUGH?
IT SHOULD BE.

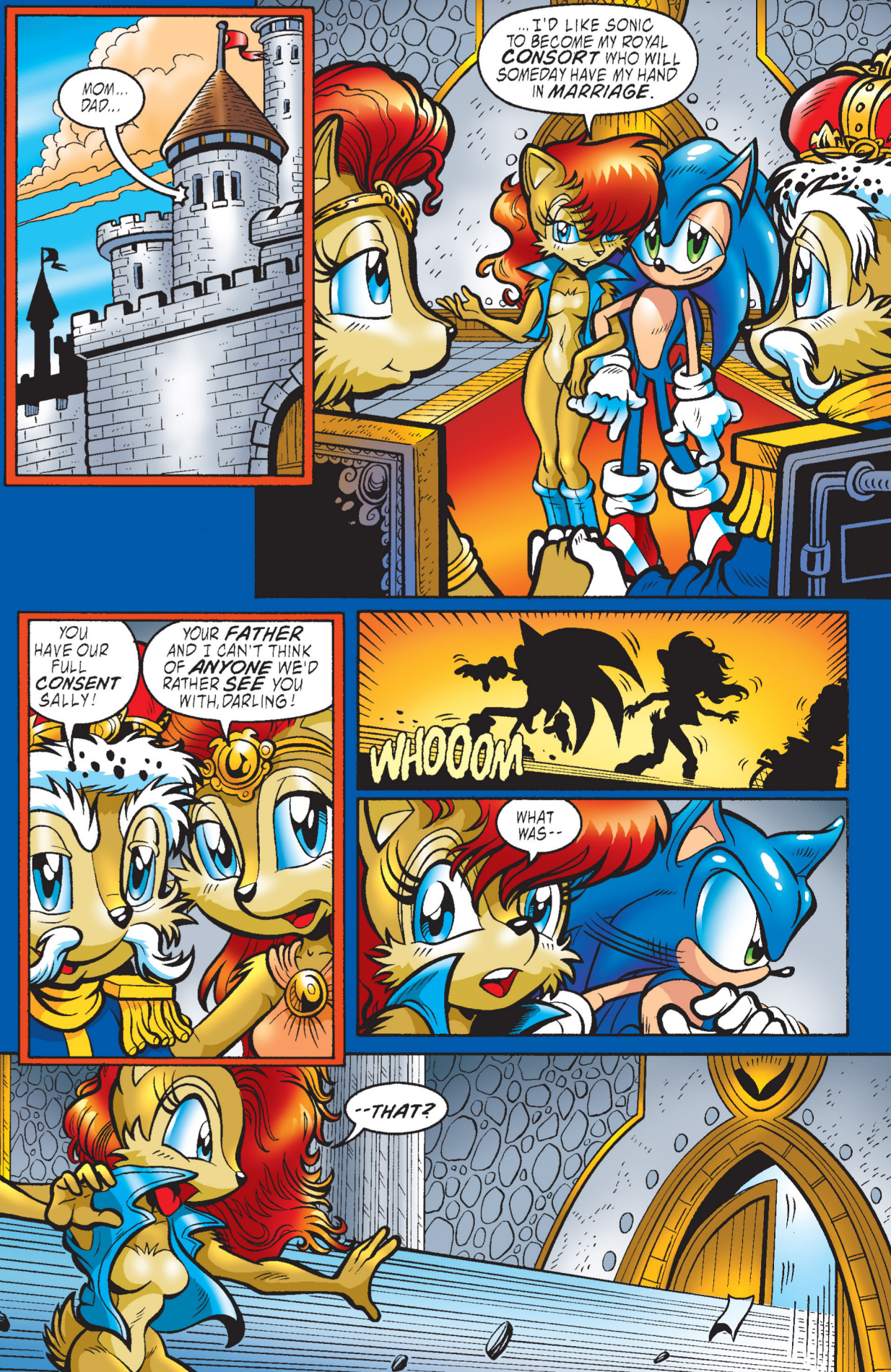
WITH THE POWER OF CHAOS CONTROL TO GUIDE ME--
--I CAN BREACH ANY DEFENSE, SO--
HERE I GO AGAIN.

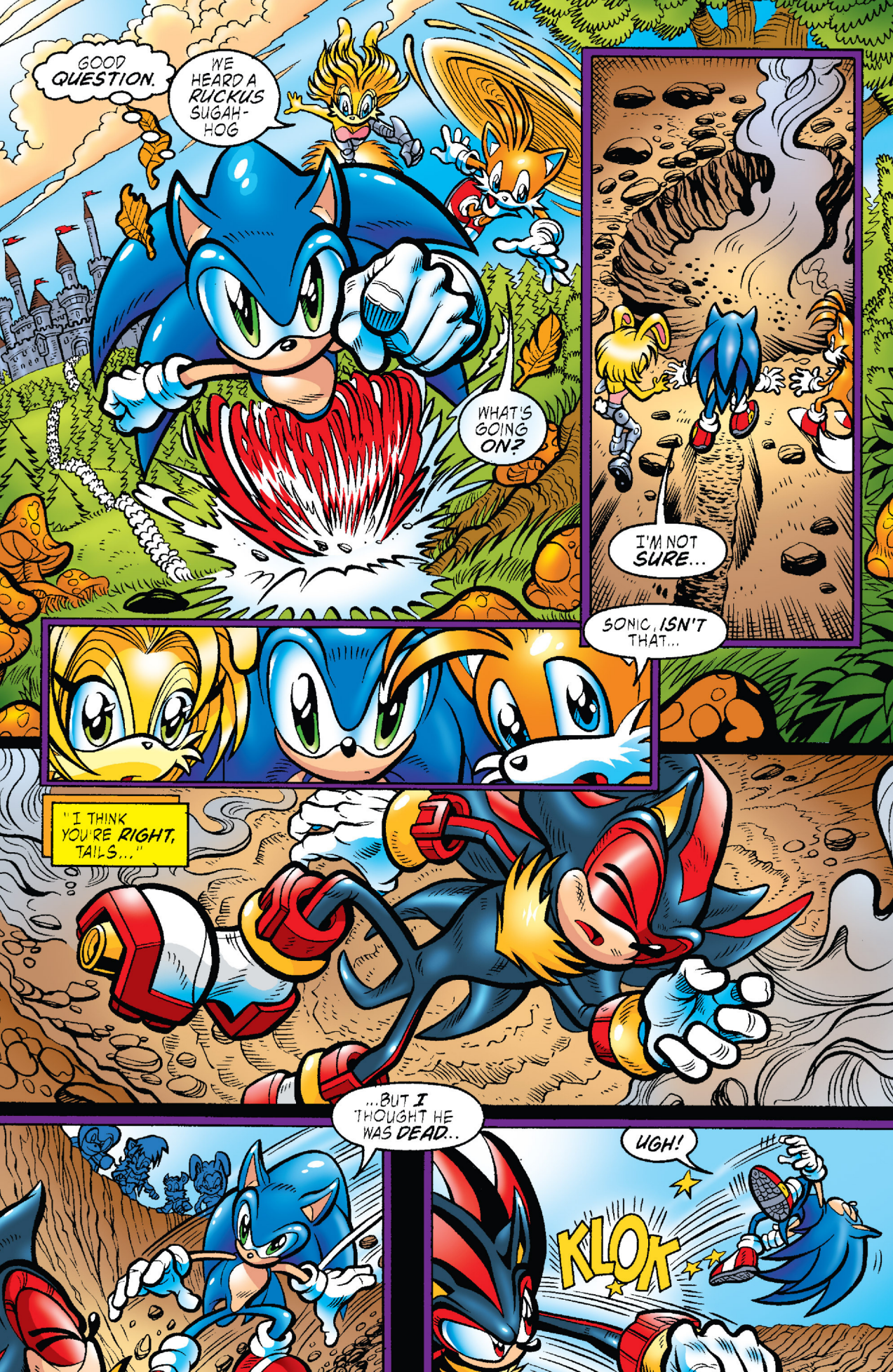
KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
:Yawwnnnn:
ARE WE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE?
...I GOT SOME OTHER STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF!
HUH, SONIC? HUH, SONIC? HUH, SONIC?
SORRY, TAILS BUT NOT TODAY...
AWWW...
DON'T WORRY, BUD, WE'VE GOT TOMORROW...
...AND THE REST OF OUR LIVES FOR ADVENTURES!
G'MORNING, MOM AND DAD! WHAT'S SHAKIN', UNCLE CHUCK?
JOIN US FOR A BITE O' BREAKFAST BOYS?
YUMMY!
NOT SONIC! HE'S GOT A ROYAL DATE!
THANKS! SEE YA LATER!
GOOD LUCK, SON!
HE DOESN'T NEED LUCK. HE'LL DO FINE.
CHOMP CHOMP MUNCH

SOON...
OH, SONIC... I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
I MISSED YOU TOO, SAL...
SO, ARE YOU READY TO POP THE QUESTION?
AM I!
MEANWHILE, THE MYSTERIOUS SPACE VESSEL--
--HAS MOVED INTO POSITION OVER THE MOUNTAIN ENTRANCE OF STATION SQUARE.
WELL, MISTER PRESIDENT?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
PREZ
AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN YOUR CITY AND MINE.
HTTP://WWW.ROBOTNIK.COM
ITS PURPOSE: UNKNOWN.
FOR NOW.


"WHY, IMAGINE IF STATION SQUARE HAD A ROBOTIC POLICE FORCE ON PAR WITH THE ONE HERE IN MEGAOPOLIS."
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, ROBOTNIK! WE'D NEVER JOIN WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
WRONG ANSWER!
HONK HOOOONK
SQUEEEE
CORBIN, YOU'RE IN THE ONCOMING TRAFFIC LANE! WE'RE HEADED FOR THAT SEMI-TRUCK! MOVE!
IT'S NOT ME, SIR!
THAT'S RIGHT...
...I'M CONTROLLING YOUR LIMOUSINE VIA REMOTE!
MAYBE YOUR SUCCESSOR WILL BE MORE WILLING TO DO BUSINESS. TA-TA.
DON'T WORRY, CHIEF--

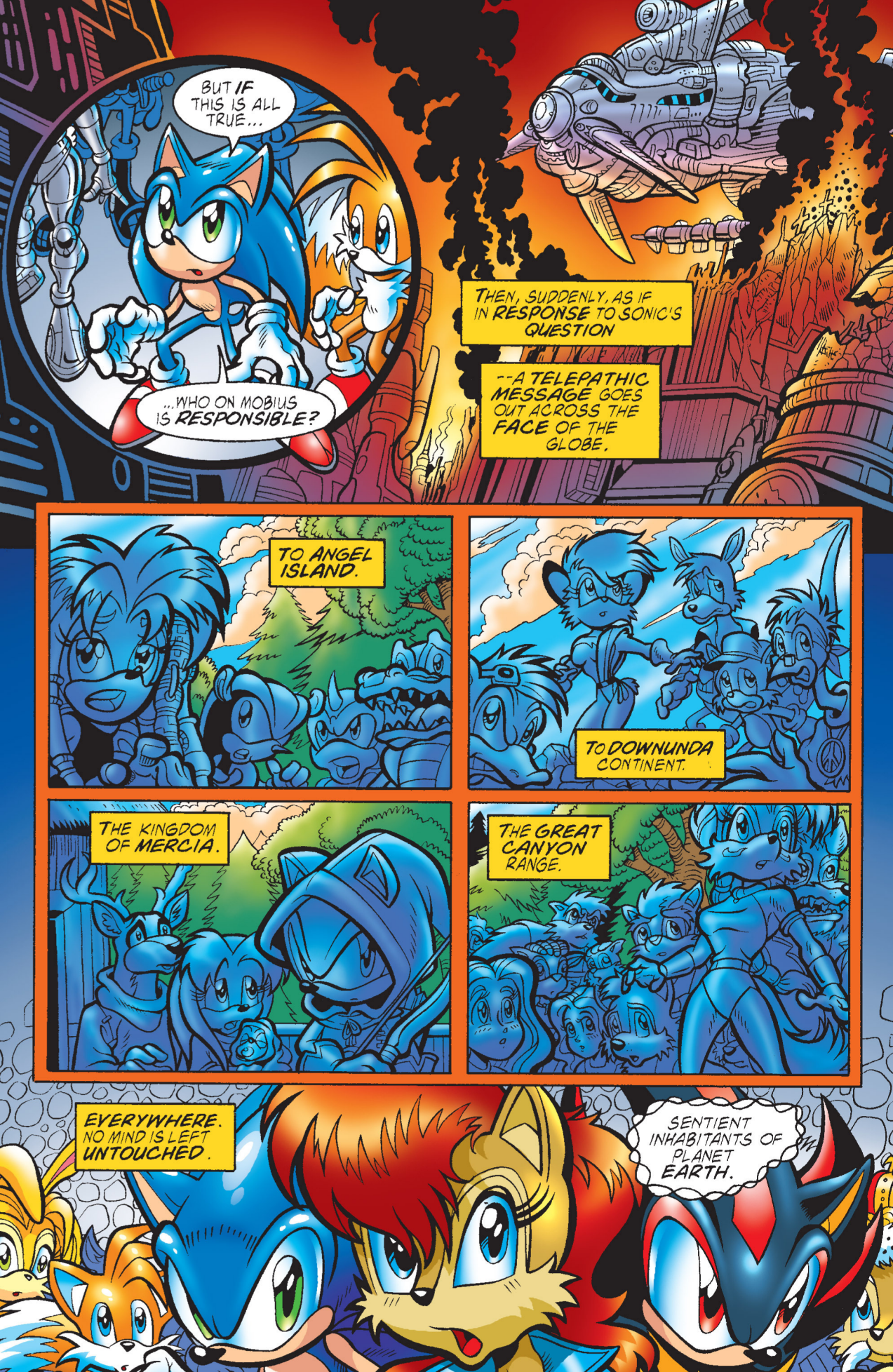

--I'VE GOTCHA!
ROUGE THE BAT!
YES, SIR YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER FIELD OP FOR A RESCUE OF THIS NATURE!
CORBIN!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL SAVE HIM--
--BUT GETTING YOU TO SAFETY IS MY FIRST PRIORITY!
SHRIEK
WHAT NOW?!
DEAR LORD! THE SKY-DOME--
--IT'S SHATTERED
!
!


MOM... DAD...
...I'D LIKE SONIC TO BECOME MY ROYAL CONSORT WHO WILL SOMEDAY HAVE MY HAND IN MARRIAGE.
YOU HAVE OUR FULL CONSENT SALLY!
YOUR FATHER AND I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE WE'D RATHER SEE YOU WITH, DARLING!
WHOOOM
WHAT WAS--
--THAT?

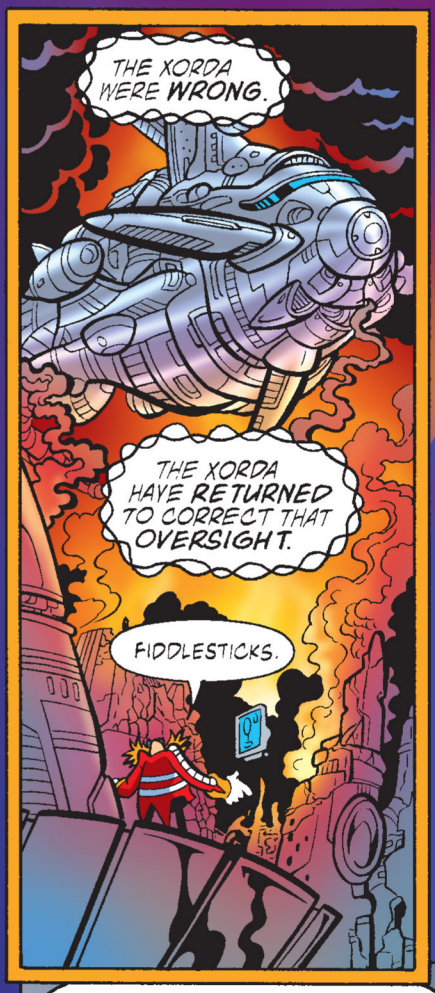

GOOD QUESTION.
WE HEARD A RUCKUS SUGAH-HOG
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M NOT SURE...
SONIC, ISN'T THAT...
"I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, TAILS..."
...BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD..
UGH!
KLOK

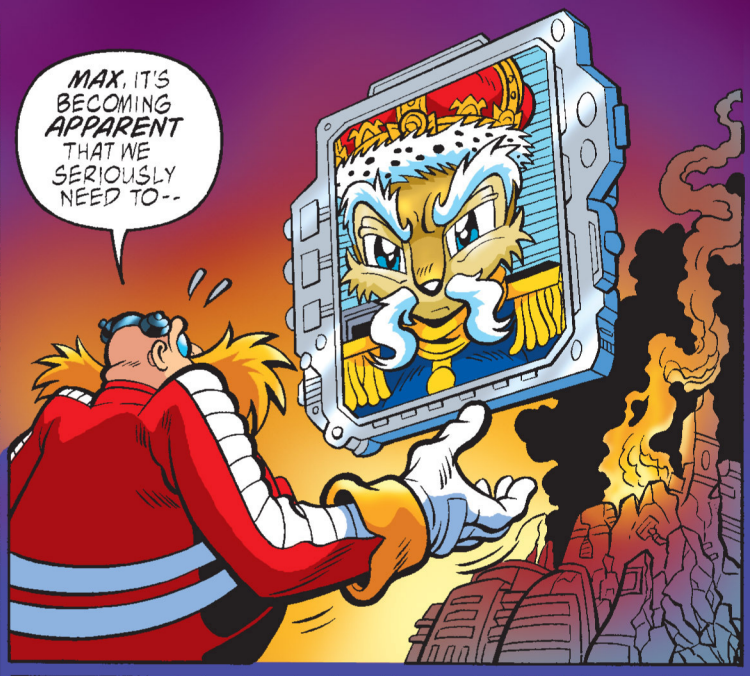
HOLD IT, RIGHT THERE, BUSTER--WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!
WHO I--I--
I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT I WAS STILL UNDER ATTACK.
YOU ARE, YA BIG POSEUR!
NO.
NO, HE'S NOT.
WHAT?!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, NICOLE'S EMERGENCY BEACON IS FLASHING.
Thank you, Princess. I'm picking up an urgent SIGNAL. Its source - Castle Acorn.
YOU HEARD HER, FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- WE'RE NEEDED THERE AT ONCE.
SONIC, YOU CAN RESOLVE (AS IN QUIETLY DISCUSS) YOUR MIS-UNDERSTANDING WITH SHADOW LATER.

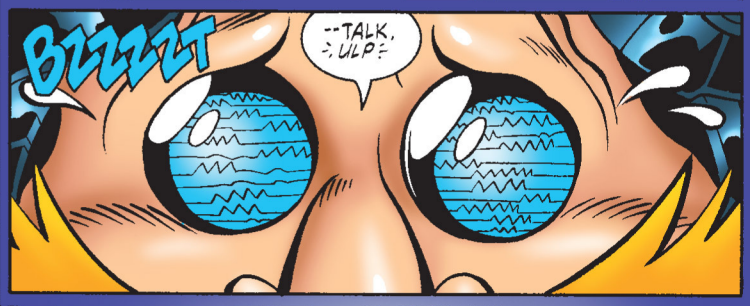
SOON...
IT DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS AND ATTACKED THE VERY HEART OF MY EMPIRE! SOME KIND OF FLYING VESSEL. ITS TECHNOLOGY ON PAR WITH MY OWN!
"SCORES OF SHADOW-BOTS WERE INSTANTLY ANNIHILATED.
"POOR SNIVELY IS MISSING.
"MEGAOPOLIS LIES IN RUINS."
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY? ALL YOU'VE EVER DONE IS TRY TO HURT ME AND MY KINGDOM.
DESPITE HIS PAST TREACHERY, I THINK THE EGGMAN SPEAKS THE TRUTH NOW.
I ENCOUNTERED THE VESSEL EARLIER.
Incoming HOLO-TRANSMIT from Station Square.
KNOTHOLE :SQWWKKK: STATION SQUARE :SQWWKKK: ATTACKED :SQWWWKK: PRESIDENT :SQWWKKK: INJURED.


BUT IF THIS IS ALL TRUE...
...WHO ON MOBIUS IS RESPONSIBLE?
THEN, SUDDENLY, AS IF IN RESPONSE TO SONIC'S QUESTION
--A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE GOES OUT ACROSS THE FACE OF THE GLOBE.
TO ANGEL ISLAND.
TO DOWNUNDA CONTINENT.
THE KINGDOM OF MERCIA.
THE GREAT CANYON RANGE.
EVERYWHERE. NO MIND IS LEFT UNTOUCHED.
SENTIENT INHABITANTS OF PLANET EARTH.

WE ARE THE XORDA.
OBSERVE, THRICE MILLENIA PAST.
"THE XORDA CAME TO THIS MUD-SPHERE TO OFFER AN ALLIANCE TO ITS HUMAN POPULACE.
"PEACE.
"AN EMISSARY WAS DISPATCHED TO THE SURFACE OF YOUR EARTH.
"BUT WAS INSTEAD CAPTURED.
IMPRISONED.
DISSECTED.
"THE XORDA REACTION--
"--WAS A STRONG ONE.
"THE XORDA THOUGHT THEIR GENE-BOMBS HAD EXTINGUISHED ALL LIFE HERE THAT DAY."

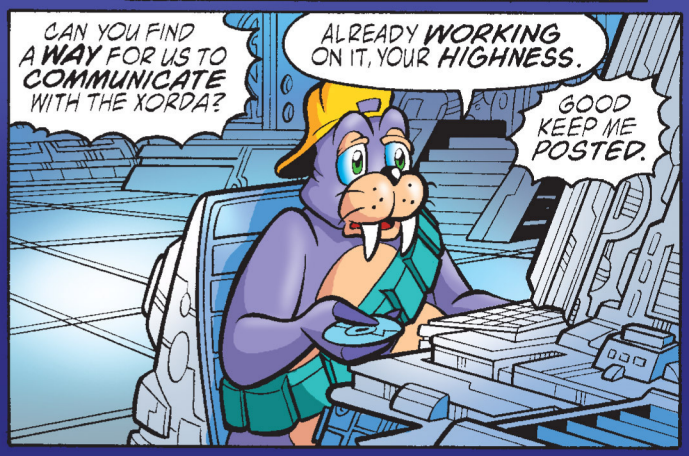

THE XORDA WERE WRONG.
THE XORDA HAVE RETURNED TO CORRECT THAT OVERSIGHT.
FIDDLESTICKS.

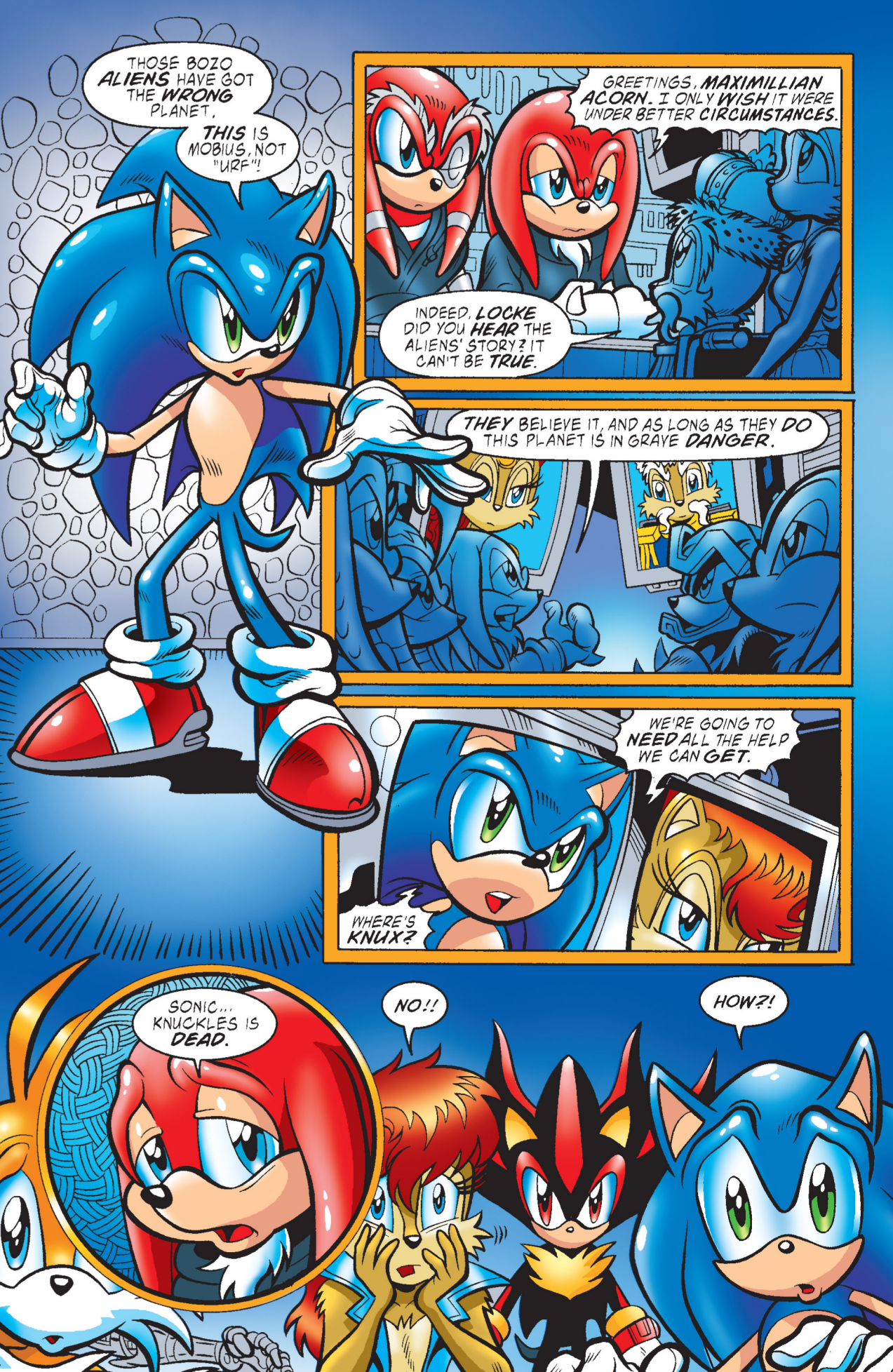

MAX, IT'S BECOMING APPARENT THAT WE SERIOUSLY NEED TO--

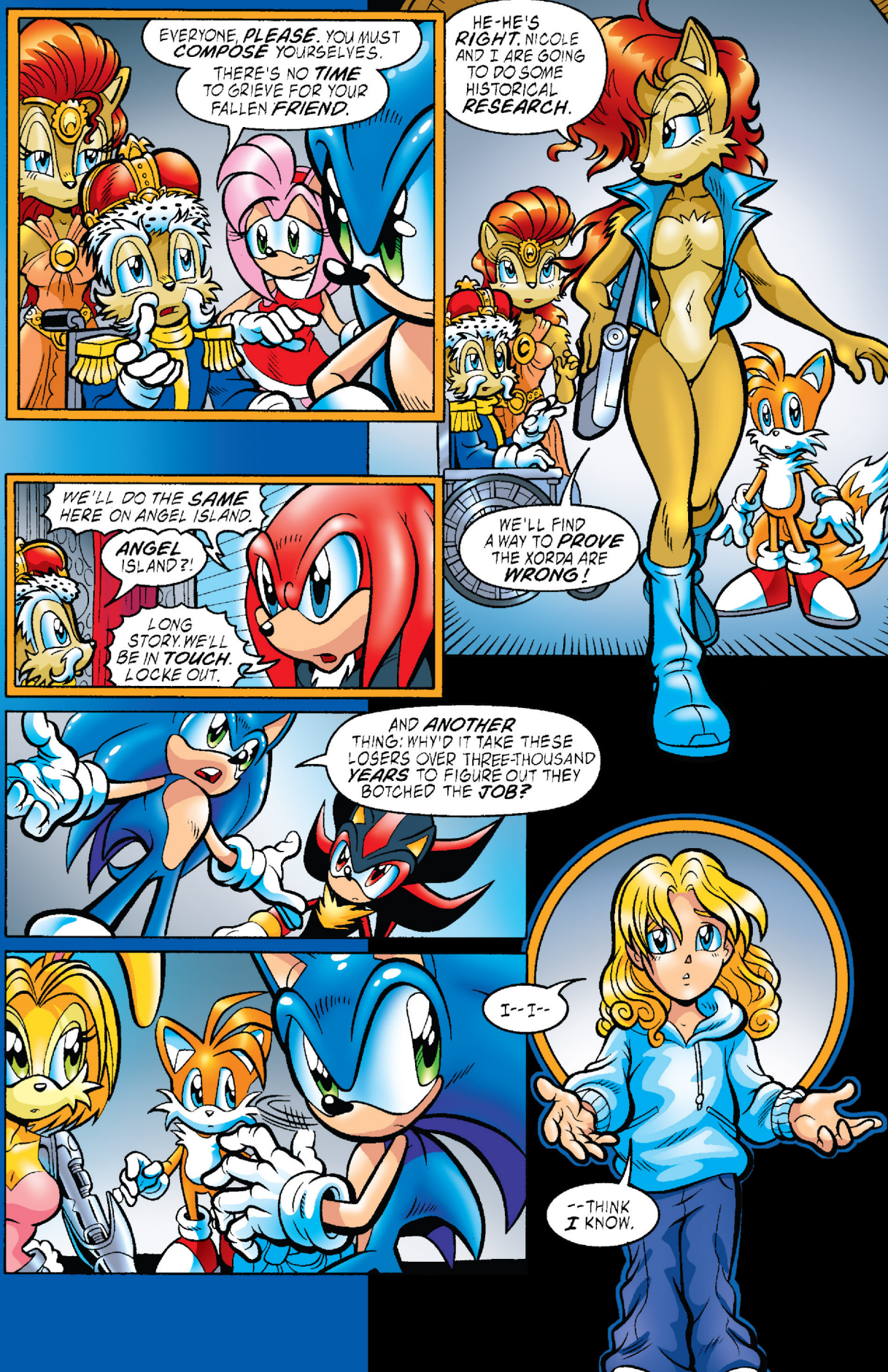

BZZZZT
--TALK, -: ULP :-

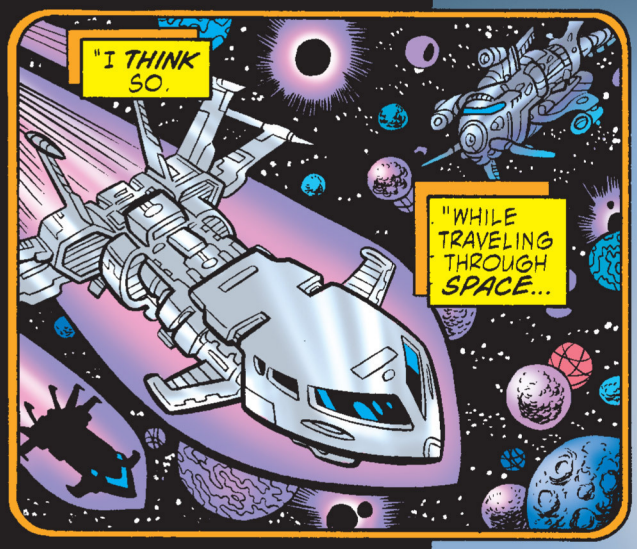
DAD, YOU ENDED ROBOTNIK'S TRANSMISSION IN MID-SENTENCE. WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN WISER TO HEAR HIM OUT?
QUITE THE OPPOSITE SALLY. HE'S NO LONGER ROBOTIC. NO LONGER INVINCIBLE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME HE'S SCARED BETTER TO LET HIM SWEAT. WE CAN USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

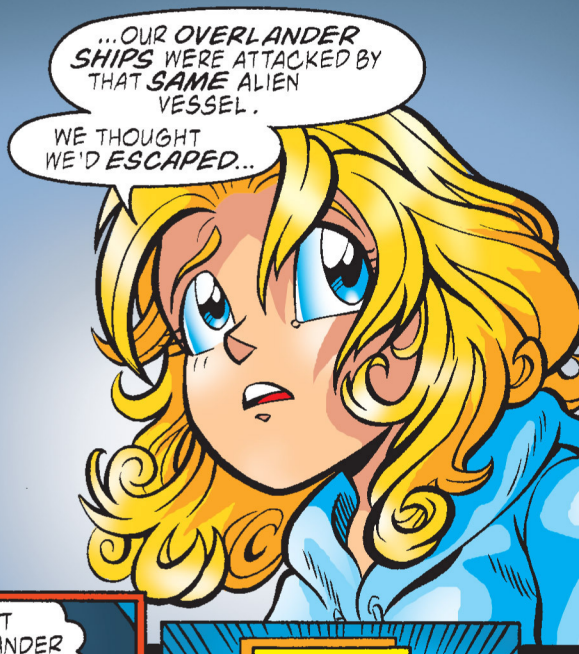
IN THE MEANTIME... ROTOR?

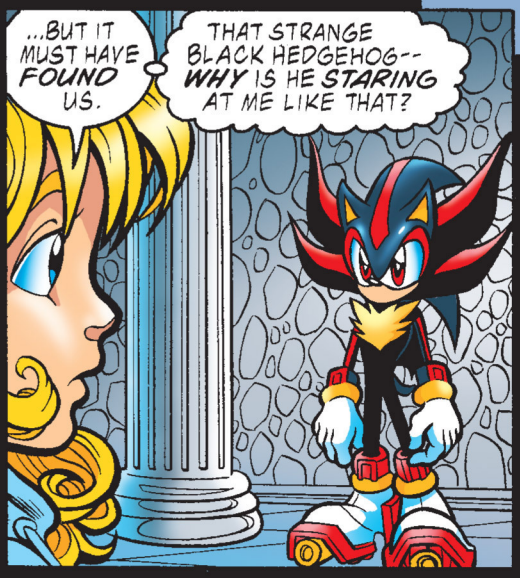

CAN YOU FIND A WAY FOR US TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE XORDA?
ALREADY WORKING ON IT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
GOOD KEEP ME POSTED.

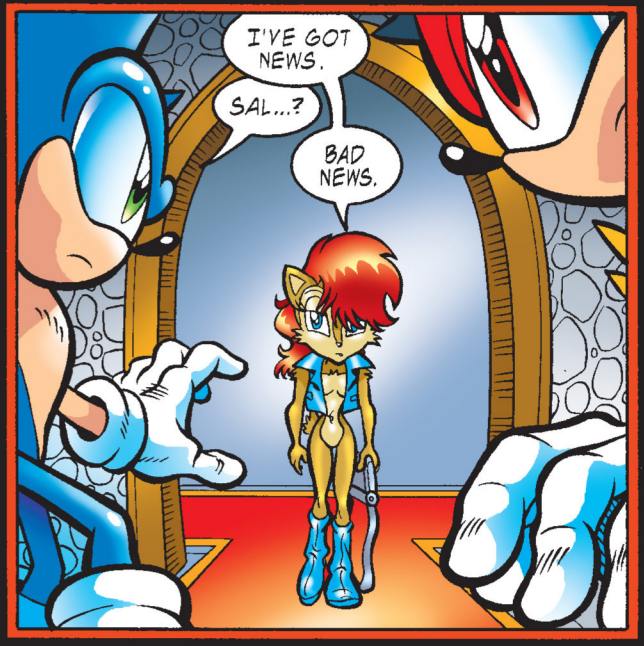

THOSE BOZO ALIENS HAVE GOT THE WRONG PLANET.
THIS IS MOBIUS, NOT "URF"!
GREETINGS, MAXIMILLIAN ACORN. I ONLY WISH IT WERE UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.
INDEED, LOCKE DID YOU HEAR THE ALIENS' STORY? IT CAN'T BE TRUE.
THEY BELIEVE IT, AND AS LONG AS THEY DO THIS PLANET IS IN GRAVE DANGER.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.
WHERE'S KNUX?
SONIC... KNUCKLES IS DEAD.
NO!!
HOW?!


EVERYONE, PLEASE. YOU MUST COMPOSE YOURSELVES. THERE'S NO TIME TO GRIEVE FOR YOUR FALLEN FRIEND.
HE-HE'S RIGHT. NICOLE AND I ARE GOING TO DO SOME HISTORICAL RESEARCH.
WE'LL DO THE SAME HERE ON ANGEL ISLAND.
ANGEL ISLAND?!
LONG STORY. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH. LOCKE OUT.
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO PROVE THE XORDA ARE WRONG!
AND ANOTHER THING: WHY'D IT TAKE THESE LOSERS OVER THREE-THOUSAND YEARS TO FIGURE OUT THEY BOTCHED THE JOB?
I--I--
--THINK I KNOW.

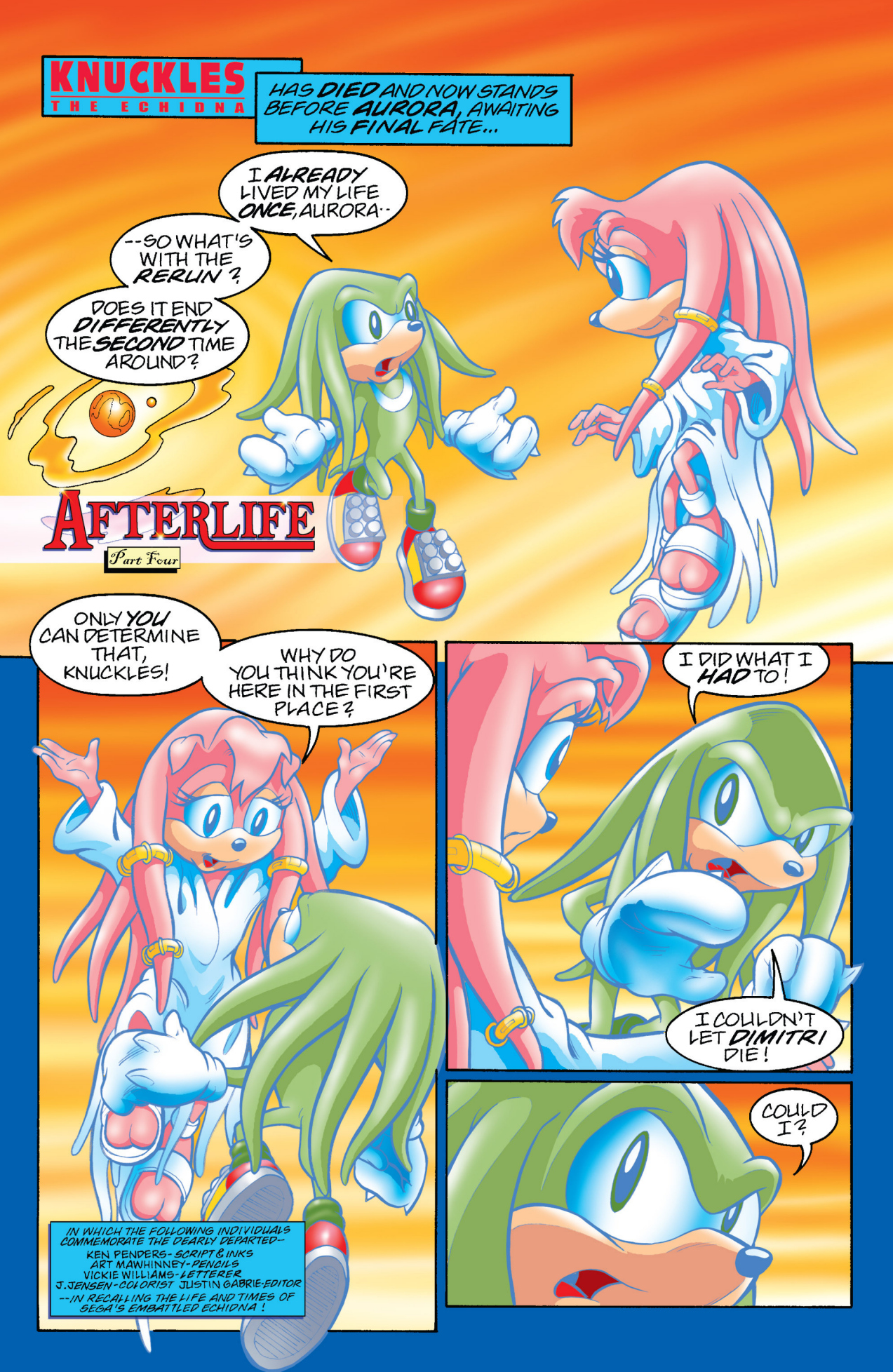


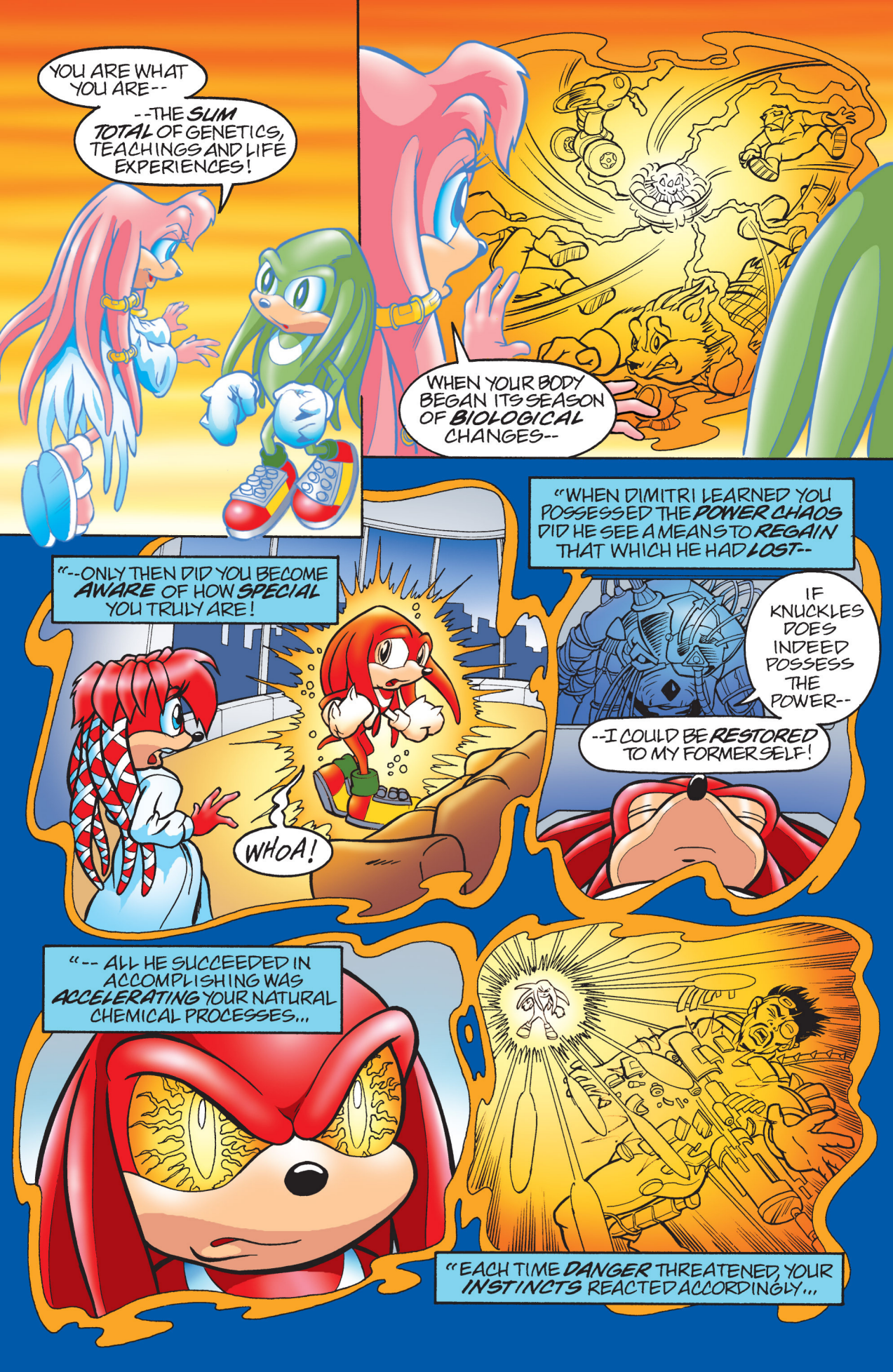


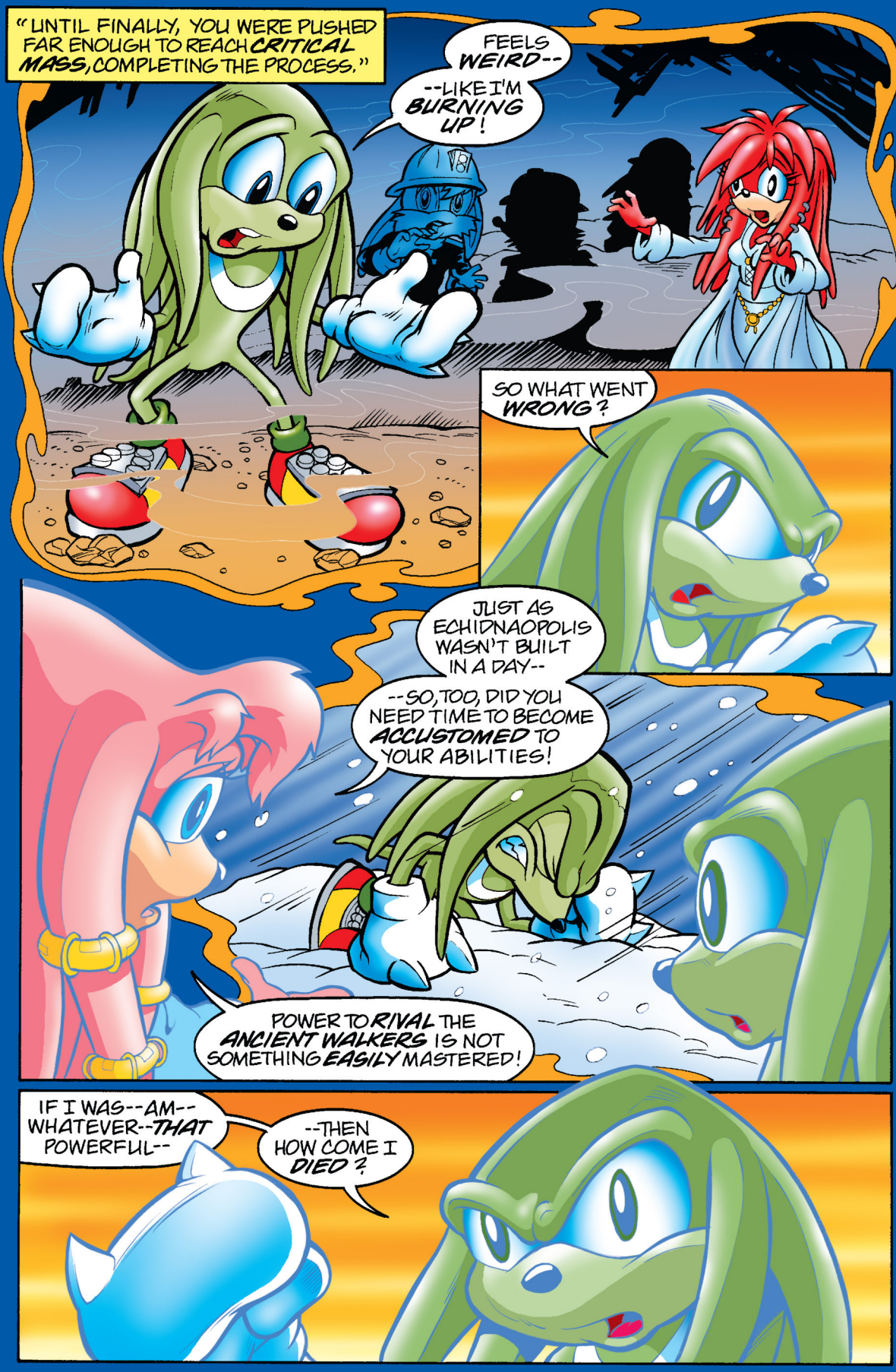


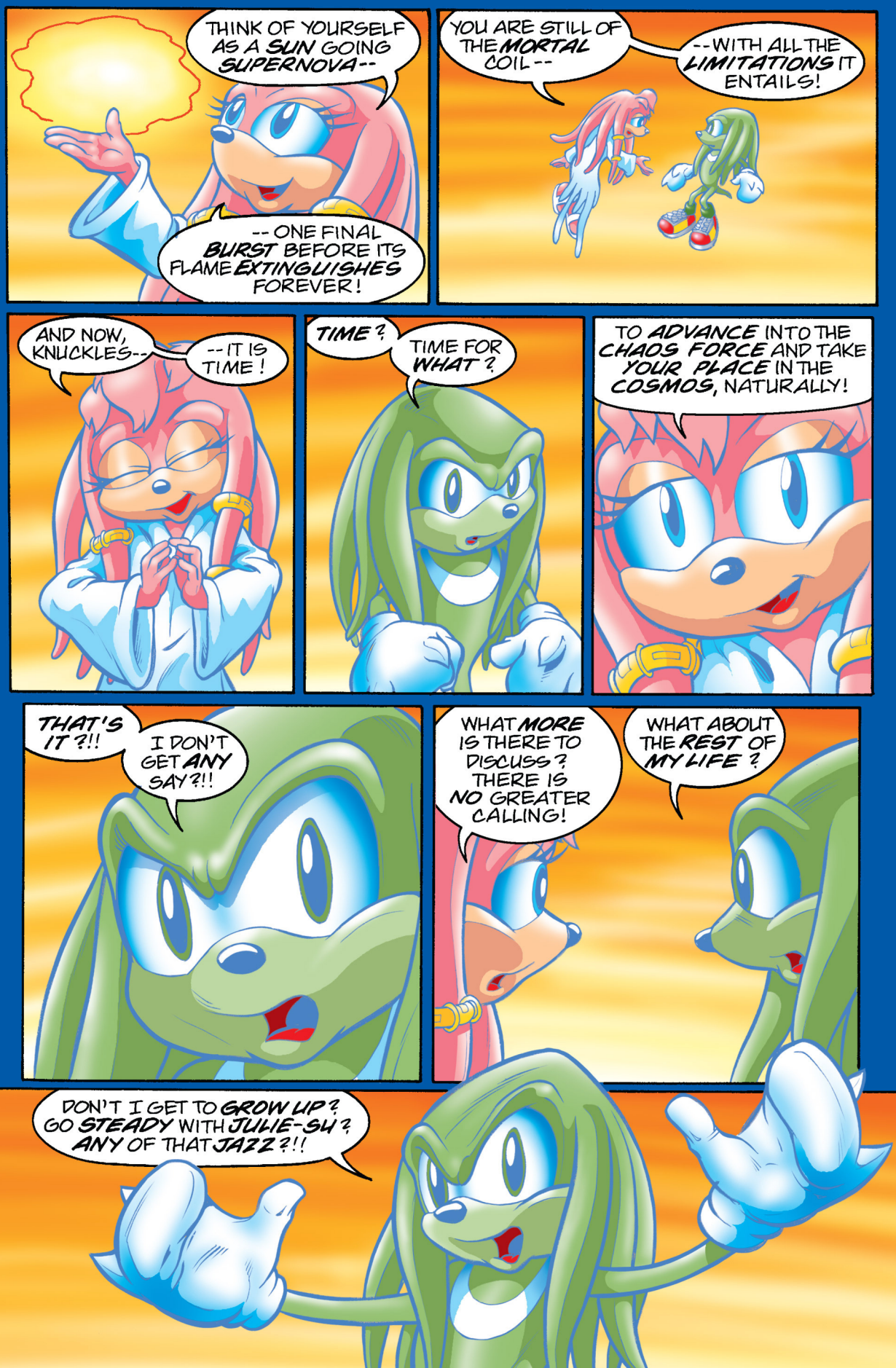


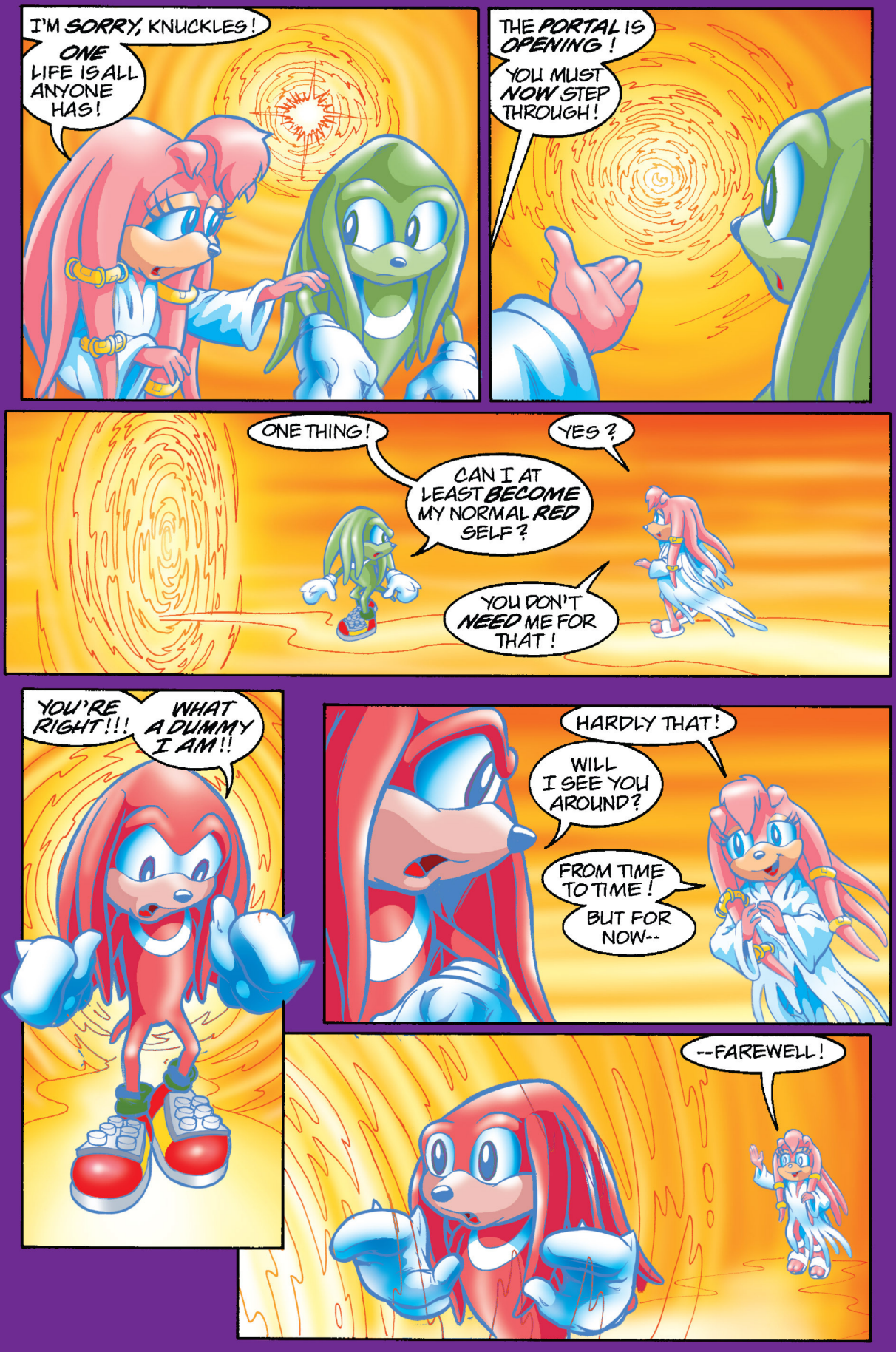
NEXT: SONIC ADVENTURE 2.5: ΩMEGA!

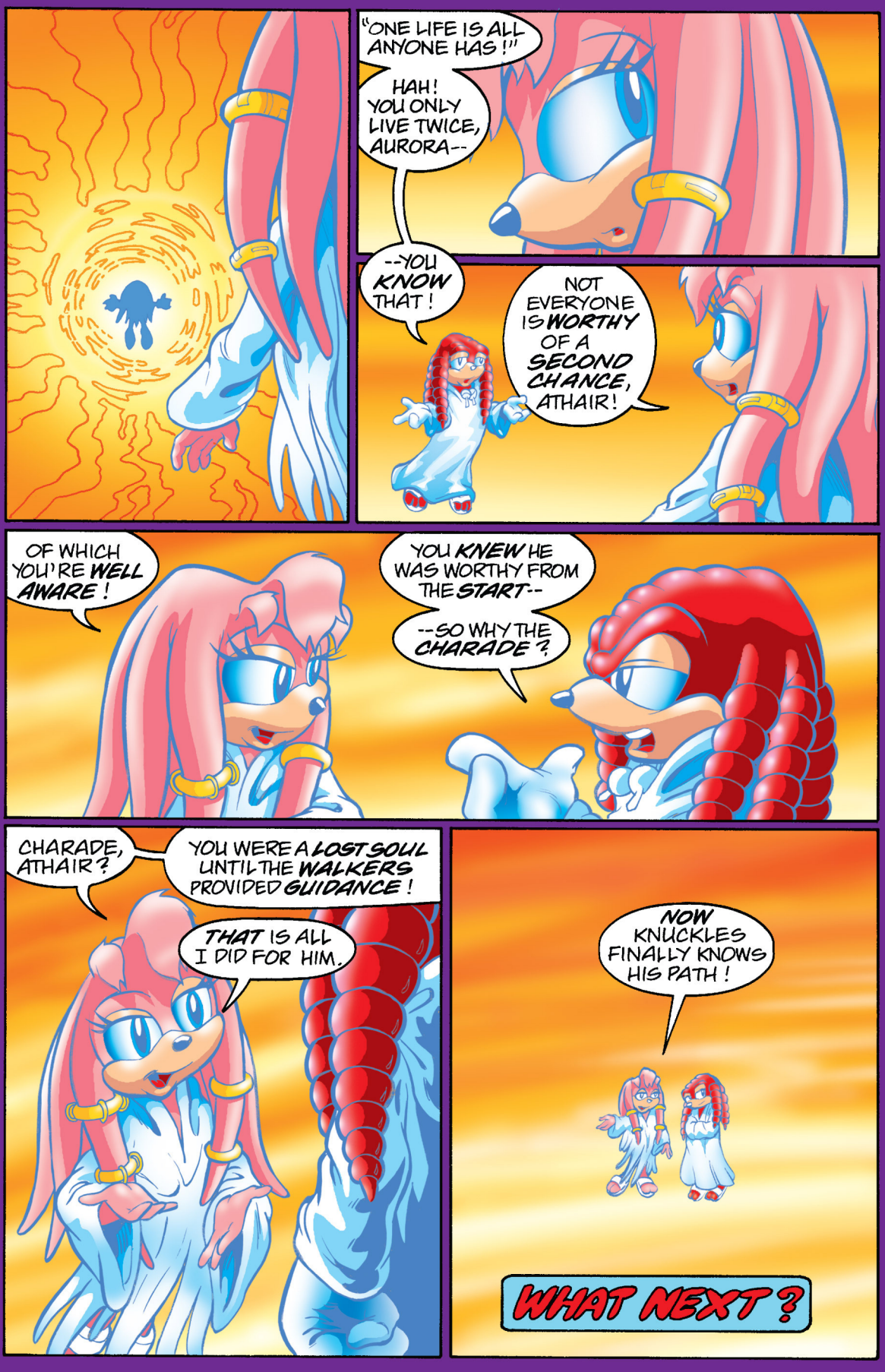

KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
HAS DIED AND NOW STANDS BEFORE AURORA, AWAITING HIS FINAL FATE...
I ALREADY LIVED MY LIFE ONCE, AURORA--
--SO WHAT'S WITH THE RERUN?
DOES IT END DIFFERENTLY THE SECOND TIME AROUND?
AFTERLIFE
Part Four
ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE THAT, KNUCKLES!
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I DID WHAT I HAD TO!
I COULDN'T LET DIMITRI DIE!
COULD I?
IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY-PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER
J.JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!


YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE--
--THE SUM TOTAL OF GENETICS, TEACHINGS AND LIFE EXPERIENCES!
WHEN YOUR BODY BEGAN ITS SEASON OF BIOLOGICAL CHANGES--
"--ONLY THEN DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF HOW SPECIAL YOU TRULY ARE!
WHOA!
"WHEN DIMITRI LEARNED YOU POSSESSED THE POWER CHAOS DID HE SEE A MEANS TO REGAIN THAT WHICH HE HAD LOST--
IF KNUCKLES DOES INDEED POSSESS THE POWER--
--I COULD BE RESTORED TO MY FORMER SELF!
"-- ALL HE SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING WAS ACCELERATING YOUR NATURAL CHEMICAL PROCESSES...
"EACH TIME DANGER THREATENED, YOUR INSTINCTS REACTED ACCORDINGLY...


"UNTIL FINALLY, YOU WERE PUSHED FAR ENOUGH TO REACH CRITICAL MASS, COMPLETING THE PROCESS."
FEELS WEIRD--
--LIKE I'M BURNING UP!
SO WHAT WENT WRONG?
JUST AS ECHIDNAOPOLIS WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY--
--SO, TOO, DID YOU NEED TIME TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR ABILITIES!
POWER TO RIVAL THE ANCIENT WALKERS IS NOT SOMETHING EASILY MASTERED!
IF I WAS--AM--WHATEVER--THAT POWERFUL--
--THEN HOW COME I DIED?


THINK OF YOURSELF AS A SUN GOING SUPERNOVA--
--ONE FINAL BURST BEFORE ITS FLAME EXTINGUISHES FOREVER!
YOU ARE STILL OF THE MORTAL COIL--
--WITH ALL THE LIMITATIONS IT ENTAILS!
AND NOW, KNUCKLES--
--IT IS TIME!
TIME?
TIME FOR WHAT?
TO ADVANCE INTO THE CHAOS FORCE AND TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE COSMOS, NATURALLY!
THAT'S IT?!!
I DON'T GET ANY SAY?!!
WHAT MORE IS THERE TO DISCUSS? THERE IS NO GREATER CALLING!
WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF MY LIFE?
DON'T I GET TO GROW UP? GO STEADY WITH JULIE-SU? ANY OF THAT JAZZ?!!


I'M SORRY, KNUCKLES!
ONE LIFE IS ALL ANYONE HAS!
THE PORTAL IS OPENING!
YOU MUST NOW STEP THROUGH!
ONE THING!
CAN I AT LEAST BECOME MY NORMAL RED SELF?
YES?
YOU DON'T NEED ME FOR THAT!
YOU'RE RIGHT!!!
WHAT A DUMMY I AM!!
HARDLY THAT!
WILL I SEE YOU AROUND?
FROM TIME TO TIME!
BUT FOR NOW--
--FAREWELL!


"ONE LIFE IS ALL ANYONE HAS!"
HAH! YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE, AURORA--
--YOU KNOW THAT!
NOT EVERYONE IS WORTHY OF A SECOND CHANCE, ATHAIR!
OF WHICH YOU'RE WELL AWARE!
YOU KNEW HE WAS WORTHY FROM THE START--
--SO WHY THE CHARADE?
CHARADE, ATHAIR?
YOU WERE A LOST SOUL UNTIL THE WALKERS PROVIDED GUIDANCE!
THAT IS ALL I DID FOR HIM.
NOW KNUCKLES FINALLY KNOWS HIS PATH!
WHAT NEXT?